

Art World (<https://news.artnet.com/art-world>)

From the Sugar Sphinx to Beast Jesus, These Were the 100 Essential Artworks That Defined the 2010s—Ranked

In case you missed it.

Ben Davis (<https://news.artnet.com/about/ben-davis-93>), January 2, 2020



Clockwise from top left: Marina Abramović, *The Artist is Present* (2010); Damien Hirst's "Treasures From the Wreck of The Unbelievable"; Favianna Rodriguez, *Migration is Beautiful* (2013); Anila Quayyum Agha, *Intersections* (2014); Elias García Martínez, as restored by Cecilia Giménez, *Ecce Homo* (c.1930/2012); Pierre Huyghe, *Untilled (Liegender Frauenakt)* (2015); Meow Wolf, *The House of Eternal Return* (2014-ongoing).

Over the New Year holidays, I published a four-part piece on the 100 artworks that defined the decade. Artnet's [Art Angle](https://news.artnet.com/the-art-angle) podcast (<https://news.artnet.com/the-art-angle>) also did an episode where we talked about my top choices and

what it even means to do a ranking like this. (For that matter, if you want a primer on my pick for #73, we did [a podcast](https://news.artnet.com/the-art-angle/art-angle-podcast-banana-1742772) (<https://news.artnet.com/the-art-angle/art-angle-podcast-banana-1742772>) devoted to it over Christmas as well.)

Clearly, you can't take these things too seriously. End-of-year lists are stupid, end-of-decade lists are stupid to the power of ten, etc. But personally, I found this particular assignment—and very specifically the task of listing individual works that might serve as lasting symbols on the 2010s—pretty edifying. It's been a decade defined by information overload, and focusing on individual images helps make sense of it all.

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For ease of reference, and in case you missed them while you were doing better things, like celebrating the end of a decade, we're putting all the parts in one place.

[The 100 Works of Art That Defined the Decade, Ranked: Part 1](https://news.artnet.com/opinion/100-works-that-defined-the-decade-part-1-1729962) (<https://news.artnet.com/opinion/100-works-that-defined-the-decade-part-1-1729962>).

[The 100 Works of Art That Defined the Decade, Ranked: Part 2](https://news.artnet.com/opinion/100-works-that-defined-the-decade-part-2-1738773) (<https://news.artnet.com/opinion/100-works-that-defined-the-decade-part-2-1738773>).

[The 100 Works of Art That Defined the Decade, Ranked: Part 3](https://news.artnet.com/opinion/100-artworks-decade-part-3-1738743) (<https://news.artnet.com/opinion/100-artworks-decade-part-3-1738743>).

[The 100 Works of Art That Defined the Decade, Ranked: Part 4](https://news.artnet.com/opinion/the-100-works-of-art-that-defined-the-decade-ranked-part-4-1737885) (<https://news.artnet.com/opinion/the-100-works-of-art-that-defined-the-decade-ranked-part-4-1737885>).

[The Art Angle Podcast: The Radical, Viral Artworks That Defined the 2010s](https://news.artnet.com/the-art-angle/art-angle-best-of-decade-1743777) (<https://news.artnet.com/the-art-angle/art-angle-best-of-decade-1743777>).

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